

of nurses to the eggs, either carrying them about in purses on even in their mouths. Lastly, I would allude to the fact that members of two distinct families may combine together for the purpose of attacking another inhabitant of the deep, and thus obtain a supply of food.

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On the Extinct Land-Tortoises of Mauritius and Rodriguez. By ALFRED C. HADDON, B.A., Scholar of Christ's College, and Curator in the Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy of the University of Cambridge. (Communicated by Prof. A. NEWTON, F.R.S.)

[Abstract, read November 20, 1879.]

THROUGH the generosity of Mr. Edward Newton, C.M.G., F.L.S., Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica (late of Mauritius), a fresh collection of the remains of the Mascarene extinct gigantic land-tortoises has been added to his former gift to the Zoological Museum of the University of Cambridge.

An examination of these bones corroborates the two Mauritian species, *Testudo triserrata* and *T. inepta*, described by Dr. Günther\*, but adds no fresh example to that apparently unsatisfactory species, *T. leptocnemis*. Although possessing a large series of remains from the island of Rodriguez, I am unable, like Dr. Günther, to distinguish more than the one species, *T. vosmæri*.

As examples of the inherent tendency to variation in these animals, I may draw attention to the ankylosis of the coracoid with the rest of the shoulder-girdle in one example of *T. inepta*, a circumstance which is unique; also to the variations in the coracoid of *T. triserrata* as to form, markings, &c. The *free* coracoid of *T. inepta* is also described for the first time.

From the large number of specimens examined, it is now found that the coracoid of *T. vosmæri* was very irregular as to the time of its ankylosis with the rest of the shoulder-girdle, and that it was not the "apparently individual aberration" which Dr. Günther supposed.

Measurements are given of all the most interesting bones, in a manner similar to that adopted by Dr. Günther in his monograph, to facilitate comparison.

\* 'The Gigantic Land-Tortoises (living and extinct) in the Collection of the British Museum.' By Albert C. L. G. Günther, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S. London, 1877.

In conclusion, I would draw the attention of herpetologists to these collections of Mascarene Tortoise remains now in the Zoological Museum at Cambridge, since they form the most complete series of specimens of these very interesting extinct reptiles.

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On a small Collection of Crustacea made by EDWARD WHYMPER, Esq., chiefly in the N. Greenland Seas; with an Appendix on additional Species collected by the late British Arctic Expedition. By EDWARD J. MIERS, F.L.S. &c.

[Read November 20, 1879.]

THE North-European and Greenland seas have been so thoroughly explored by British and Scandinavian naturalists, that it was not to be anticipated that the collection of Crustacea made by Mr. Whympere would contain much of novelty or great rarity, more especially as he appears to have had but few opportunities of collecting, several, indeed, of the species having been obtained by purchase from Danish sailors and others. A considerable proportion of the species were, however, collected by Mr. Whympere at a single locality—Hare Island, north of Disco Island, in about 30 fathoms of water, concerning which I transcribe the following note:—

“I got three hauls of a dredge as the ship was drifting, and got an immense assemblage of beasts and fishes. These were the richest hauls I have ever made with a dredge. I had to throw away the greater part of the hauls, from the impossibility of preserving the specimens. Thousands of Echinoderms and Mollusks came up.”

It is very much to be regretted that the means of preserving the whole of the material dredged on this occasion did not exist; for, as it is, out of a total of twenty-seven species recorded below, no fewer than twelve were obtained at this locality, although unfortunately several of these are represented by but one or two examples in imperfect condition. The remainder of the collection chiefly consists of parasitic Isopoda and Copepoda and a few marine Copepoda obtained by washing from seaweed. The oceanic Copepoda are not included in the present Report, but have been submitted to Mr. Brady for examination.